

darker bands of the tissue—that is, are densest at the lines (consult respectively F, G, H, I, J, fig. 2, p. 424). According to the direction in which the razor has been passed, the polygonal, oval, oatshaped, or linear aspect of the epithelium is revealed. The upper free margin (of E) has a ragged edge, where the scales have a tendency to desquamate; whereas the opposite lower or attached margin is smooth-edged and denser in quality. Thus tufts or prolonged rods to fit into the interspaces of the underlying follicular layer are wanting, evincing therefore other conditions to the relative disposition of the parts. (Compare the drawings F and A, fig. 2, p. 424, which correspond as to magnitude and direction made.)

Having correlated the sac to the gizzard, we narrow the question, though we still have to explain physiologically how reproduction of fresh and successive linings is effected whilst the viscus, so to say, remains intact. It should be borne in mind, then, that the film of firm membrane in question is to all intents a true corneous structure, and comparable therefore with the outer stratum of the skin or epidermis, ordinary horn, or, in the case of the cylinder variety, with the horn of the Rhinoceros. The successive and rapid development of cells from below pushing onwards those above would readily admit of desquamation *en masse*, and without interfering with a fresh growth. Indeed there is ample testimony of scaly strata in the microscopical sections in support of this view, which accords moreover with the regeneration and metamorphosis of corneous textures generally. That the ejected sac should retain the shape and peculiar corrugated appearance of the interior of the gizzard is not to be wondered at when we consider that it is but a solid though flexible impress of the sinuosities, elevations, and depressions of the mucous folds of that organ.

2. Description of the *Ovis poli* of Blyth.

By Dr. F. STOLICZA, Naturalist to the Yarkund Mission.

[Received May 24, 1874.]

(Plate LIII.)

OVIS POLI, Blyth. (Plate LIII.)

Male, in winter dress.—General colour above hoary brown, distinctly rufescent or fawn on the upper hind neck and above the shoulders, darker on the loins, with a dark line extending along the ridge of tail to the tip. Head above and at the sides a greyish brown, darkest on the hind head, where the central hairs are from 4 to 5 inches long, while between the shoulders somewhat elongated hairs indicate a short mane. Middle of upper neck hoary white, generally tinged with fawn; sides of body and the upper part of the limbs shading from brown to white, the hair becoming more and more tipped with the latter colour. Face, all the lower parts, limbs, tail, and all the hinder parts, extending well above towards the loins, pure white.

The hairs on the lower neck are very much lengthened, being from 5 to 6 inches long. Ears hoary brown externally, almost white internally. Pits in front of the eye distinct, of moderate size and depth, and the hair round them generally somewhat darker brown than the rest of the sides of the head. The nose is slightly arched and the muzzle sloping. The hair is strong, wiry, and very thickly set, and at the base intermixed with scanty, very fine fleece; the average length of the hairs on the back is from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The iris is brown. The horns are subtriangular, touching each other at the base, curving gradually with a long sweep backwards and outwards; and after completing a full circle, the compressed points again curve backwards and outwards; their surface is more or less closely transversely ridged.

The following are measurements taken from a full-grown male, though not the largest in the mission collection:—

	inches.
Total length from between the horns to tip of tail	62
Length of head	13·25
Tail (including the $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long hair at tip)	5·5
Distance between snout and base of ear (the eye lies below this connecting line)	12·75
Distance between base of ear and the eye	3·25
Distance between snout and eye	8·5
Distance from the contact of horns to snout	12
Breadth between the anterior angle of eyes	6
Length of ear in front	4·75
Height of shoulder (the hair being smoothed, beginning from the edge of the middle of the hoof at the side)	44
Girth round the breast	51·5
Length of one horn along the periphery	48
Circumference of one horn at base	15
Distance between the tips	38

The colour of full-grown females does not differ essentially from that of the males, except that the former have much less white on the middle of the upper neck. The snout is sometimes brown, sometimes almost entirely white, the dark eye-pits becoming then particularly conspicuous. The dark ridge along the tail is also scarcely traceable.

In size, both sexes of *Ovis poli* appear to be very nearly equal; but the head of the female is less massive, and the horns, as in allied species, are comparatively small: the length of horn of one of the largest females obtained is 14 inches along the periphery, the distance at the tips being 15 inches, and at the base a little more than 1 inch. The horns themselves are much compressed; the upper anterior ridge is wanting on them; they curve gradually backwards and outwards towards the tip, though they do not nearly complete even a semicircle.

In young males, the horns at first resemble in direction and slight curvature those of the female, but they are always thicker at the base and distinctly triangular.

The length of the biggest horn of male along the periphery of curve

